

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 1, 1969

TO: Henry Kissinger

FROM: The President

I noted in your January 31 report the interesting comments from a Polish source. I think we should give every encouragement to the attitude that this Administration is "exploring possibilities of rapprochement with the Chinese." This, of course, should be done privately and should under no circumstances get into the public prints from this direction. However, in contacts with your friends, and particularly in any ways you might have to get to this Polish source, I would continue to plant that idea.

State Dept. review completed

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INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MORI/CDF
C00228037 Page 1

2/8/69

SECRET/EXDIS

SUGGESTED DRAFT REPLY

Dear President Nasser:

Thank you for your letter of January 5 which I have read with interest. We have many questions to discuss, and I welcome the opportunity for a frank and friendly exchange with you.

I fully share your desire for peace in the Middle East. Above all, the people of the area deserve the opportunity to devote their full energies and resources to building better lives for themselves and their children.

I welcome your observation that the desire for mutual understanding between our peoples is stronger than all the accumulated causes of doubt and suspicion. I share your belief "that the future of Arab-American relations is something we should all work for to the extent our endeavors and circumstances permit." We are prepared for a restoration of relations on the basis of mutual respect whenever conditions are appropriate.

I realize that there have been disagreements between our governments in the past. I do not wish to discuss these here. I believe the time has come to lay this part of our past to rest and to look forward.

In closing, I wish to stress that the United States will make every effort to help Ambassador Jarring and the nations in the area achieve a just settlement which would serve the interests of all.

Mrs. Nixon joins me in extending our best wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely yours,